

when the health and lives of patients are placed in their hands.

Graduates in Medicine and Surgery are not necessarily drug doctors. They stand ready to use anything that will help to alleviate or cure the sick and anything that will prevent disease. Their knowledge of the human body, their skill in diagnosis, and their judgment of disease prompts them to study and apply so-called nature's remedies, when indicated. Open air, sun baths, various water baths, mechano-therapy, electricity, massage, mental therapeutics are all used by members of the regular profession. Their employment is based on the same knowledge of the human body and the same skill in diagnosis as the employment of drugs and surgery.

As practitioners of medicine and surgery we desire to make our attitude toward practitioners of other modes of healing clear. We are not unalterably opposed, as is so often said, to other modes of healing. We use many of them ourselves. We are, however, unalterably opposed to persons holding themselves out to the public, which is not in a position to discriminate, as practitioners of medicine when, on account of insufficient, or inefficient training, they do not understand the human body, either in health or disease, and are not able to diagnose the disease which they are attempting to treat. If the public demands practitioners of these modes of healing, let it have them; but first, let such practitioners prepare themselves by a sufficiently thorough course in the fundamentals of medicine so that they are capable of giving the services required. Such a knowledge of the human body is desired, such a familiarity with disease and such a skill in diagnosis is demanded that such a disease as appendicitis will not be treated by massage until an abscess forms and ruptures; so that such a lesion as tuberculosis of the joints will not be treated by manipulation, and so that broken bones will not be treated by mental therapy. Let all who desire to practice any form of healing prepare themselves by an efficient preliminary education, likewise a proficient professional training, so that they can make a proper diagnosis and so that they will know when their method is efficacious and when useless or harmful; and then let the layman choose whomsoever he wishes for his medical adviser.

THE RIGHT KIND OF TALK.

Elsewhere in this issue we take pleasure in printing an editorial from the *Fresno Republican* which has the right ring. It is "safe and sane" and the sort of thing that will do good. It is the kind of editorial statement so seldom found in newspapers now, but which made them the guides to public opinion a generation or more ago. If all the papers in the state would take this attitude and slowly but surely educate their readers in the line of the relative value of a "twisted thought" and a malaria infected mosquito, it would not be so many years till we had a pretty clean state and some pretty sane legislation. As usual, the *Fresno Republican* stands for the good of the people of the state and not for any selfish interests of its own.

MEMBERSHIP VS. LICENSE TO PRACTICE.

More and more it is becoming evident that membership in our county units, and therefore membership in the State Society and the American Medical Association which are included with membership in a county unit, must take the place, to a large extent, of the state license to practice medicine and surgery. In the eyes of the ordinary man in the street, one license looks just like another and a license to practice naturopathy or chiropractic or osteopathy seems no different, to him, than a license to practice medicine; the holders of all are alike treating sick people. The people have taken legislation into their own hands and apparently do not wish for any expert advice; it seems useless for us, as a medical organization, to try to tell them or the legislators anything. The spirit of the time is revolt against all control and they seem willing to allow anyone who wants to, to get a license to practice anything he wishes to. How useless would it be for a medical organization to say much when from the Board of Medical Examiners itself come suggestions to license chiropodists under that board and to extend the privilege of so-called "reciprocity" to all sorts of drugless healers who have been licensed in other states? It would be undignified of us even to seriously discuss such utter absurdities and if we officially oppose the recommendation of the board, then the cry goes up that there is a medical fight on and that the "medical trust" feels that its monopoly is being attacked! Truly, the people is a silly people.

SMOOTH SWINDLER; LOOK OUT FOR HIM.

There is a young man, described as about 21 years old, 6 feet tall weighing about 180 pounds, black hair, very dark, large eyes, rather pale, deep falsetto voice, three upper teeth missing (which may have been fixed), who is operating in California taking alleged subscriptions for *Current Opinion* and *The Literary Digest* and offering as a premium to doctors a medical book, and to lawyers a law book. The Periodical Publishers' Association have offered a reward for information that will lead to his arrest. Dr. English, of Stockton, is good enough to advise us of this man's presence and of the further fact that he is indeed a "smooth article," with a good talking knowledge of medical journals and up-to-date medical publications and also has in his possession any number of "credentials." He seems to be doing a good deal of business which is, of course, unauthorized and repudiated by the publications mentioned. This sort of crook is probably as old as the oldest subscription publication and he is always hard to catch. Be on your lookout for him and if he comes your way, notify the police department. In general, never subscribe for anything to an agent unless he is personally known to you, and never pay him any cash; send the money to the home address of the publication. If he is a legitimate agent, he will get his commission just the same and if he is not you will save your money.